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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

God who gave us life, gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when you remove the conviction that these liberties are a gift of God?

Dear God, we open this Senate with a resounding response to Thomas Jefferson's pointed question. We reaffirm our conviction that we are one Nation under Your sovereign authority.

You were the inspiration of our Constitution that makes our Nation distinctly different and the author of the liberties that distinguish our democracy. May our gratitude for these liberties stir up our patriotism and strengthen our leadership. Our motto, "In God We Trust," is more than a shibboleth; it exposes our deepest commitment to trust You to guide us as we seek to confront the problems of our secularized society with Your solutions, Your absolutes in a culture that relies on relativism. We ask You to begin a spiritual awakening in our land and begin with us. In the name of our Lord and Savior. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader is recognized. Mr. LOTT. I thank the Chair.

THANKING THE CHAPLAIN

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, again we thank our Chaplain for his words of wisdom in his morning prayer.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Today there will be a period for morning business until 12 o'clock noon, with Senators to speak

for up to 5 minutes each, with the following exceptions: Senator GRASSLEY for 60 minutes—and I see he is here and prepared to proceed—Senator FEINSTEIN for 30 minutes, and Senator DASCHLE 30 minutes.

At 12 noon today, following morning business, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Madeleine Albright to be Secretary of State. Under the order that has been agreed to, there will be 2 hours and 10 minutes for debate on the nomination, with the vote to occur at the conclusion or yielding back of the debate time.

So I presume that will be around 10 minutes after 2 or so. It is my hope that some of that debate time will be yielded back so the Senate may vote on the nomination early enough to accommodate our colleagues who wish to attend the wake of former Senator Paul Tsongas.

Following the vote on the Albright nomination, I expect an additional period of morning business to allow Senators to introduce legislation they have been working on or perhaps to make comments on bills that were introduced yesterday.

Finally, I will announce that, if available later this week, the Senate may consider the nomination of our former colleague, Senator Bill Cohen, to be Secretary of Defense. We are not sure exactly how that will proceed. The committee is scheduled to have a hearing today. We are looking at the possibility of whether or not it could be taken up either later today or, if not today, then late tomorrow after our delegation returns from Massachusetts.

I had indicated to the President our desire to cooperate with him in getting his foreign policy and defense Cabinet nominees in place as soon as possible. So I would really like to see us get that done this week. I know there will be support for that on both sides of the aisle.

Therefore, additional rollcall votes may occur today or this week and

Members will be notified accordingly. I think at this point there does not appear to be a necessity for us to have votes on Friday, although I am not making that commitment yet. Just be prepared to have more votes possibly today and tomorrow, on Thursday.

I yield the floor, Mr. President.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWNBACK). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond 12 noon with Senators permitted to speak therein for not to exceed 5 minutes. Again, under the previous order, the Senator from Iowa [Mr. GRASSLEY] is recognized to speak for up to 60 minutes.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I yield from my time the Senator from Texas 5 minutes for her to use any way she wants. I thank her for being one of the 54 cosponsors of the legislation I am going to speak on and introducing this morning.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas is recognized.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I thank the Chair. I thank the Senator from Iowa for allowing me to introduce two more bills and also thank him for his leadership on the bill that he will talk about later to give some much needed and appropriate relief for the farm families of our country.

Mr. President, I send a bill to the desk and ask that it be referred to the appropriate committee.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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S579

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be referred to the appropriate committee.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mrs. HUTCHISON pertaining to the introduction of S. 179 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

(The remarks of Mrs. HUTCHISON pertaining to the introduction of S. 180 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. ABRAHAM, and Mr. CAMPBELL pertaining to the introduction of S. 181 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I might be able to speak for 5 minutes, not on the time of the Senator from Iowa.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The 5 minutes would have to come out of the time from the Senator from Iowa.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, if nobody else on his list is seeking recognition, I wonder if I might continue.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Can we extend my time for 5 minutes to 11:05?

I will yield to the Senator from Vermont 5 minutes out of my time.

Mr. LEAHY. I thank the Senator from Iowa for his normal courtesy. Obviously, if someone from his group comes to the floor seeking recognition, I will yield the floor.

BIPARTISANSHIP IN THE 105TH CONGRESS

Mr. LEAHY. I just have heard so much, Mr. President, about a desire to return to less partisanship and more comity at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue. I hope that might happen for the sake of this country.

I go back to an experience my father used to tell me about when I was a child. It was in 1936. I was not yet alive. But my father was born, raised in Vermont. At that time it was probably the most Republican State in the Union, one of only two States, for example, that voted for Alf Landon in the Franklin Roosevelt landslide.

President Franklin Roosevelt came to Vermont in 1936, actually August 1, 1936. He went in an open car down

State Street in Montpelier. The National Life Insurance Building had its headquarters at that time there. My family had their home almost across the street where they had the Leahy Press. My father, who was probably the only Democrat in Montpelier at the time, was standing in front of the National Life Building.

You must understand, National Life was sort of an adjunct to the Republican Party. They would determine, along with a couple other companies, who would be Governor this year to the next year and the next year at a time when we were solely a one-party State. I must say, as a Democrat I will have to admit they came up with some pretty good Governors too, but very, very much a Republican hierarchy place.

As the car went by, the President of the National Life took off his hat, stood at attention holding it over his heart. My father, standing next to him, said, "I never thought I'd see the day that you would take off your hat to Franklin Roosevelt."

He turned to my father and said, "Howard, I didn't take off my hat to Franklin Roosevelt. I took off my hat for the President of the United States of America." My father told me that story so many times growing up, and I had met the man who did that and I knew the facts of it. I recounted the story to a number of people, people writing books or speaking on this, as an example of a different era. Now, this man would never have voted for Franklin Roosevelt. He would have supported whoever ran against him, but he respected the office of the Presidency, as he respected the office of the Congress.

I hope, Mr. President, that all of us who serve in the Congress, in both parties, would stop trying to figure out how best to tear down these institutions. We are the most powerful democracy history has ever known. We are the only superpower in the world today. That brings with it certain responsibilities—to stay both a democracy and so powerful a country. We did it because of the genius of our three-part Government—the executive branch, legislative branch, and the judicial branch.

In recent years, with both Democrat and Republican Presidents, it has become a sport in this Nation to find every conceivable way to tear them down no matter what they do. I would ask myself and the public, is it conceivable that any person, man or woman, Democrat or Republican, could ever, anywhere in this Nation of 260 million people, reach the level of virtue and be the paragon that we seem to insist our President should be? If so, then that person is not a representative of 260 million Americans. But we try every which way to diminish the power of the Presidency, the leader of the most powerful nation on Earth. In the Senate and in the House we do it to ourselves, so that, again, the respect of the Nation is diminished. Now we see more and more attempts to do it to the judiciary.

Mr. President, let us stop and think. If we destroy, either by our actions or others', the respect that these institutions of Government must have, how long do we remain a democracy and how long before the checks and balances that have been so carefully built up, and built up based on the trust of the American people, how long before that trust is destroyed, the checks and balances fail, and suddenly you have an opening for a person on horseback to come in and take over the reins of power of the last great nuclear superpower, with the largest economy in the world, the most powerful nation on Earth, a nation that can justify its power and its position in this world only if it remains a democracy, only if it represents its own people, only if the reins of power maintain the respect of the people.

So I go back to that August day in Montpelier, VT, when that man was holding his hat over his heart as President Roosevelt went by, and as my father, a loyal long-time Democrat, may God rest his soul, took his hat off and held it over his heart when President Eisenhower honored the State of Vermont and drove through, and as I did, as a young prosecutor, for President Johnson and President Nixon and President Bush and President Clinton, stand at attention, thinking how honored our State was that they came and brought with them the symbols of the office of the Presidency.

Let us try. It is difficult in the time of the 30-second sound bites and special interest groups on the right and left. It is difficult when partisan feelings run high. But let us step back and say: Respect this country; respect the institutions; respect the integrity and the independence of our judiciary; respect the good will and patriotism of the men and women who have the opportunity to serve in the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives; respect the fact that we, as a Nation, elect our President, a President who constitutionally can serve only 4 years at a time and no more than 8; respect the fact that we have those checks and balances. Maybe we ought to work at making Government work and earn the respect of our people and not try in so many ways to tear Government apart.

Mr. President, I thank my good friend from Iowa for his courtesy, and I yield the floor.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask the distinguished Senator from Iowa if he